

BRIERLEY-HILL
URBAN . DISTRICT . COUNCIL.



Annual Report



OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1905



BRIERLEY-HILL :

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1906.

BRIERLEY-HILL

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

CHAIRMAN Councillor THOMAS WILLIAMS, J.P.
 VICE-CHAIRMAN Councillor T. CLULEE.

♦♦♦♦ COUNCIL. ♦♦♦♦

NORTH WARD.

Councillor JOHN BENTON „ JOSEPH FISHER „ HENRY MANTLE		Councillor HENRY PARRY „ R. V. ROUND „ A. R. WARBY
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EAST WARD.

Councillor ISAIAH BARKER „ JOSIAH GORDON „ OLIVER HOOPER		Councillor SAMUEL MALE „ SAMUEL NEWTON „ THOMAS WILLIAMS
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WEST WARD.

Councillor J. J. APPLEBEY „ THOMAS CLULEE „ W. D. DRAKEFORD		Councillor S. W. HANCOX „ W. E. HIGGS „ SOLOMON MORETON
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Sanitary Commitee :

The whole of the Members of the Council.

CHAIRMAN Councillor HY. PARRY.

Medical Officer of Health :

H. D'ARCY ELLIS, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.

Clerk :

WILLIAM WALDRON, Solicitor.

Surveyor :


J. L. HARPUR.

Analyst :

E. W. T. JONES, F.I.C.

Sanitary Inspector :

JOHN YORKE.



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1905.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Brierley-Hill Urban
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

It is a matter for congratulation that the year 1905 has been a remarkably healthy one. The death-rate, which has been steadily falling for the last four years, still remains remarkably low. The birth-rate has also gone up a little, but does not quite reach the decennial average.

Since 1895 the birth-rate of England and Wales has shown a continuous decrease. In this district it is uniformly high, and such slight fluctuations as do occur over the decennial period, do not materially affect the general result.

Although the Infant Mortality is not high, it is not below the previous decennial period, and is not so low as that of England and Wales, or of the 141 smaller towns. We should not rest satisfied so long as better results are attainable.

The mortality has, however, dropped considerably during the past twenty years, *e.g.*, in the decennial period 1885—1894 the average mortality was 186 per 1,000 births, and in the decennial period 1895—1904 it is 159 per 1,000 births.

Although this is true, it is still the direction in which further effort should be made to demonstrate the good results of sanitary administration by a further reduction of the mortality.

The mortality from Zymotic diseases was considerably influenced and kept up by an outbreak of Diarrhoea and Measles, but this mortality is below the previous decennial period. What we have to remember is that these deaths from Zymotic diseases are all preventable, and that although every precaution may be used to keep them out, when deaths from Zymotic diseases do occur, the fatal issue can generally be traced to bad sanitary environment.

In regard to the number of Infectious Diseases which have been notified during the year, the result is most satisfactory, as showing the lowest number notified since the Act was adopted in 1893. Two cases only of Enteric Fever were notified, and it is doubtful whether one of these was a genuine case.

Eighteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, with one death. This was a very malignant case, and entailed a serious loss on the parents, being their only child. Since the changes that have been effected at the Isolation Hospital, I have sent in all the cases I could. Hitherto there has been great prejudice on the part of the parents against sending their children into the Hospital, and no serious attempt has been made to overcome this feeling; but under the changed circumstances, I believe this feeling is dying out.

Prompt isolation is the only effectual means of keeping the disease out of the schools. I am satisfied the few cases I have been able to isolate have saved many others from contracting the disease.

Five cases of Diphtheria and three cases of Membranous Croup were also notified, two very fatal diseases amongst young children. Neither of these has been very prevalent in this district in the past, but during part of the year there were some indications that Diphtheria may be a more troublesome disease in the future than it has been hitherto. It is now the universally accepted opinion that the early infection of Anti-diphtheric serum does considerably lessen the mortality from this dreadful disease. But this antitoxin serum is very expensive and should be supplied free when necessary.

In March you adopted a resolution, authorising me to obtain a proper syringe and a supply of serum, which could be obtained, free of charge, in cases of Diphtheria, occurring in the households of the poorer members of the community.

The local medical practitioners were notified of this offer.

A sterilized syringe and a supply of antitoxin are kept at my offices, Moor-street, and can be obtained on application by the medical attendant. With this means and the bacteriological examination which can also be obtained free of charge at Mason College, by arrangement with the County Council, we are in a good position as regards combating the disease. The use that has already been made of both these means has been attended with satisfactory results.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population at the Census taken in April, 1901, was 12,148, living in 2,394 houses, an average of 5.07 persons to each inhabited house. On information supplied to me by the Assistant Overseer, the number of new houses erected up to April, 1905, was 133. This brings

the total number of inhabited houses up to 2,527. The estimated population is therefore 12,822.

408 persons were born in the district, of whom 196 were males and 212 females. The birth-rate for the year 1905 is therefore 31·82 per thousand of the population, as against a birth-rate of 30·30 for the year 1904.

The mean birth-rate for the past ten years is 33·24.

The number of deaths registered within the district during the year is 182—a death-rate of 14·11 per thousand of the population; but to this has to be added 14 deaths which occurred outside the district—5 at hospitals and 9 at the Union House—making the total deaths 196. The death-rate is therefore 15·28 per thousand of the population, as against a death-rate of 17·16 for the year 1904.

The mean death-rate for the past ten years is 18·39.

Twenty-eight deaths occurred from the seven principal Zymotic diseases. The death-rate is 2·18 per thousand of the population, as against a Zymotic death-rate of 1·97 for the year 1904.

The mean Zymotic death-rate for the past ten years is 2·3.

Sixty-five deaths occurred amongst children under 1 year of age, making an infantile mortality of 159 per thousand registered births; as against 186 for the year 1904.

The mean infantile mortality for the ten years is 159.

Synopsis of Birth and Death-rate in Brierley-Hill, County of Stafford, and England :—

1905.	Annual Rate per 1,000 living.			Infantile Mortality. Annual Death-rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 Births.
	Births.	Deaths from all causes.	Deaths from Seven Zymotic Diseases.	
Brierley-Hill	31·82	15·28	2·18	159
England and Wales	27·2	15·2	1·5	128
76 Great Towns	28·2	15·7	1·8	140
141 Smaller Towns	26·9	14·4	1·5	132
England and Wales—less 217 Towns	26·3	14·9	1·0	118
County of Stafford—				
1904 { Urban	33·7	17·2	2·41	165
{ Rural	28·4	14·4	1·15	112
{ Brierley-Hill	30·30	17·16	1·97	186

Tables I., III., and IV. (appended) are the usual Tables required by the Local Government Board and County Council dealing with Vital Statistics. Table V. is a new table, asked for this year by the ~~County Council~~. Tables VI. and VII. I add myself.

There is also the usual Summary of work done under the Factory and Workshops Act, which is required by the Home Office. And also the Summary of the Work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department which is required by the County Council.

Phthisis.

Five deaths occurred from this disease, *i.e.*, the Pulmonary Tuberculosis which affects the lungs, and is generally known as Consumption. This is very considerably below the previous decennial average, which was 12. Under "Other Tubercular Diseases" (Table IV., appended), you will note there were six deaths. These were all amongst young children, and are also a little below the average of the previous ten years.

When a death from Pulmonary Phthisis occurs, it is now our practice to fumigate the premises. The Sanitary Inspector informs me he has no difficulty about this. This is of some advantage for those who have to continue to live on in the same bed room, or for new tenants, but long before the case reaches that final stage, there are many ways by which the disease is disseminated and over which one has no control, except by an appeal to the sufferers themselves, and that I find is resented, simply because they do not appreciate the importance of the measures they are asked to adopt.

It is a difficult question, but if any real good is to be done by Sanitary officials they must know where the cases are to be found in their early stages. Counsels of perfection are absolutely useless in sanitary work, we must have some control if we are to do any good. Some system of notification is necessary. Voluntary notification is perhaps most advisable.

I shall be glad if the Council will consider the advisability of offering the usual notification fee for say a period of two or three years. At a very little cost I should be able to judge whether any real good can be done. There would be very little, if any, interference with the patients, excepting perhaps amongst the poorer members of the community. I think you would find that the assistance we should be able to give a good many of the sufferers would be much appreciated.

Measles.

Twelve deaths occurred from this disease. Eleven of the deaths were children under one year of age. So long as the mothers persist in regarding Measles as a very harmless sort of complaint, the disease will have a disastrous result amongst their children. In itself it is not a

serious illness; but as I have frequently stated, in my previous reports, unless care be bestowed on the sufferers, especially during the stage of convalescence, a fatal complication, such as Broncho-pneumonia is liable to set in. This does not, however, represent the full extent of mischief wrought by an epidemic. Serious sequelæ such as Phthisis, Ear diseases, and Eye diseases, are much more common after Measles than any other affection, and they point to the necessity for prolonged careful feeding and nursing, long after the period when danger is generally supposed to have passed over.

The epidemic reached its maximum in May, when over 30 per cent. of children in the infant schools were absent, and from 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. in the other departments.

In my monthly Report to the Council I advised the closing of all the schools, including Sunday schools, in the district, for a period of three weeks. This was subsequently carried out.

Notification of the closing of the schools was sent to the Local Government Board and County Council.

At one of the schools the time had to be extended, but on the whole the closing had a good effect.

Measles, as affecting school attendance, is almost confined to infant schools.

Practically all the deaths from Measles occur at ages under six.

An epidemic occurs with persistent regularity every two years, and is most fatal to children in the second year of life.

In this district it is generally followed by Whooping Cough, the two diseases being frequently in association with each other. The importance of these two diseases on our Zymotic death-rate is shown in the decennium, 1895-1904, the combined mortality from these two diseases being 119—the combined mortality from the five other principal Zymotic diseases being 183—so that the aggregate loss of life from Measles and Whooping Cough alone is over one-third of the total.

Any attempt to reduce this mortality demands the fullest consideration.

There is no disputing the fact that the aggregation of young children is frequently followed by an outbreak of infectious disease. How much more certain is this to be the case, when you have children from three to five years congregated together day by day in a possibly badly ventilated school. The admission of these babies to school has done much to favour the spread of infectious disease of all kinds. Our object should be to avoid bringing them together under five years of age in order to evade the most infectious and fatal period. By this means a large number of children's lives could be saved, both as regards Measles and other communicable diseases.

The exclusion of children under five years would not prevent Measles, but the majority of these would contract the disease at an age when they are better able to stand it.

It is not true that a child is always and everywhere better off than running at large.

When the information of an outbreak of Measles reaches me from the schools it is because the grant is in danger through the diminishing attendance. Some system of notification from the teachers of schools should receive every encouragement by the Local Education Committee, enjoining that early notification, with the address of the patient, be sent direct to the Medical Officer of Health. This might prevent the closing of the schools. The disease is most catching in the pre-eruptive stage, consequently when there are a large number of cases at any one time, in a school, there is no alternative but to close.

Diarrhœa.

Thirteen deaths occurred from this disease, ten being children under one year of age. The influence upon the death-rate is obvious, but it is important to remember that the disease is preventable. Diarrhœa is included amongst the Zymotic diseases, and is believed to be due to a specific germ. The conditions upon which the vital manifestations of the organism are dependent are in some way closely associated with season; all of the deaths in this district occurred in August and September. It is probable that the micro-organism, has its habitat in the superficial layers of the soil, where in the forms of decaying animal matter it has its pabulum and manufactures its poison.

Whereas there appears to be reasonable doubt of the theory that the maximum mortality from Diarrhœa coincides with the temperature of the earth at different depths—the intimate association of the disease and conditions of the soil, is very generally accepted.

It also seems to be clearly demonstrated that an excessive rainfall has a deterring influence upon the prevalence of the disease. In dry weather, the organic matter which is constantly being deposited on the streets and in back yards, becomes pulverised and carried in the form of dust into the houses. It is a significant fact that eleven out of the thirteen deaths occurred in August. There was very little rainfall and consequently a great deal of dust during the months of July and August.

To prevent dust the surface of the street must be kept clean. In dry weather there should be no stinting of the water cart.

Cleanliness of back yards is another very important precaution. The impregnation of the soil with organic matter cannot, however, be prevented, unless the back yards are well and imperviously paved. Not such rough paving as one generally sees now.

By provision of properly covered and impervious receptacles, and regular scavenging, there should be no excuse for the accumulation of refuse round dwellings, and where such refuse does recur, after warning, the offenders ought to be summarily dealt with.

By exercising firm control in these matters you will be helping to remove one of the most potent factors in the causation of Diarrhoea.

Infantile Mortality.

The term Infantile Mortality is used to denote the proportion of deaths under one year of age in a thousand births. The relative mortality is held to be a fair test of the Sanitary condition of a district.

One would like to do something which would bring about a greater reduction of this mortality. When all the more material evils to which Sanatarians have devoted so much attention have been eliminated, there remain outstanding causes which are as potent factors in the production of disease, causes which affect disease at all ages, but which indirectly, have perhaps more important influence over the Infantile Mortality than in any other direction. Let me mention a few that occur to me. The habits and disabilities of the people themselves, intemperance, poverty, ineptitude, stupidity, and callous indifference to the importance of healthy habits, neglect of the simple laws of health, simple rules of which, in these days, no expecting mother is justified in pleading ignorance. Here is an example that came to my knowledge quite recently, and I have reason to believe that it is not an isolated case. A young mother brought a weakly infant to me, and I ascertained that all through the child-bearing period, on the advice of the midwife, she had been regularly taking daily a mixture which she knew contained a large quantity of gin.

If this is a common practice is it surprising that children die within the first two or three weeks after birth? There is no excuse for such gross ignorance either on the part of the midwife, the husband, or the mother.

Is it any wonder that children die from acute Respiratory diseases, when it is no uncommon thing to see children under five years of age out with their mothers late at night, coming, as they frequently do, out into the cold air, from a hot, stifling atmosphere?

There is a class of mothers to whom it is of little use giving good advice about feeding and rearing babies. They need practical help. We have abundance of evidence from other localities, that the most successful way of giving assistance is by the appointment of Health Missioners.

Such an appointment may receive assistance from the County Council, if there is a persistent demand for it.

306 deaths amongst children under one year of age were registered in the district during the five years ending December 31st, 1905.

The percentage of deaths under each heading is as follows:—

28	per cent.	were due to disorders of Digestion, such as may be attributed to improper feeding, etc.
23	„ „	to Pneumonia and Bronchitis.
20	„ „	to Zymotic diseases, including Diarrhoea.
17	„ „	to Premature Birth.
5	„ „	to Tubercular Diseases.
8	„ „	to other causes, such as Congenital Diseases and Accident.
8	per cent.	were the children of professional men and tradesmen.
27	„ „	were those of the higher wage earning class such as mechanics, etc.
65	„ „	miners and labourers.
5	„ „	were illegitimate children.
25	per cent.	resided in houses the weekly rental of which is over five shillings.
75	„ „	in houses of less than five shillings weekly rental.

Housing of the Working Classes.

During the year I have reported to your Sanitary Committee 22 houses as unfit for human habitation. Some of these have been repaired and made more habitable. Most of the houses reported were of the older class, and were unhealthy in consequence of old age and decay, but capable of repair, if it were seriously taken in hand.

In others my objection to their occupation has been due to structural deficiencies, the ill effects of which have become more urgent from overcrowding. A cottage, though old and structurally defective, may be occupied if it is dry, and there is sufficient air space and sunlight for each individual occupier. When the opposite condition exists, and the house is occupied by young children, the question is a much more serious one, and it is, unfortunately, necessary that some authority should step in to prevent anyone placing his wife and children under conditions so prejudicial to their health. It is not poverty that compels them to occupy these houses. An insanitary cottage is not worth paying for, and the man who permits his wife and children to occupy one neglects his duty to his own class and to those dependent upon him.

The Sanitary Inspector's Summary (appended) will give further information as to notices, etc.

Sewerage.

Now that the Council has entered upon negotiations with the Kingswinford Rural District Council, I sincerely hope this scheme will proceed unhindered. Of the urgent necessity for getting on with the sewerage of the district there can be no possible doubt. Neither can anyone question the advantage of delivering the sewage four or five miles outside your district. The land at Round Hill Farm is exceptionally well suited for the treatment of sewage, and is very unlikely to give any trouble during the period of the proposed agreement.

Cemetery.

May I hope the time has now arrived when you will be able to grapple seriously with this question. I have been urging it upon your notice now for several years. If the information supplied to me is correct, it is marvellous that it has been found possible for so long to continue burying in the parish churchyard.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Vide Mr. Yorke's report appended. The progress made, if not as good as I could wish, is at least satisfactory.

Slaughterhouses.

Vide Mr. Yorke's report. I had to report to you one bad case of nuisance. It arose almost entirely from the keeping of pigs and manure. It was an example, however, of the difficulty of keeping such places inoffensive in close proximity to dwelling-houses, a difficulty that you will not overcome unless you provide a public slaughter-house.

Refuse Removal.

This work is still done by contract, but it is undoubtedly better done than hitherto. It is not removed as often as I think it should be, but judging from the complaints made to me, which during the past year have been practically nil, there is evidently much more attention being paid to the ordinary requests for removal.

In the concluding paragraph in his report Mr. Yorke mentions "The Cottage Street Tip." This tip is objectionable on account of its magnitude and position. How to dispose of the refuse so as not to create a nuisance is a problem which always demands serious attention. Suitable sites are getting scarce, but I certainly think this one ought to be abandoned. Apart from the question of cost, from a health point of view, this kind of refuse should not be deposited near dwellings. It has

been calculated that the refuse from towns contains nearly 30 per cent. of putrescible organic matter. It is most putrescible in Summer, when putrefaction is most active, green stuff more plentiful, and the protection of dry ashes less abundant. Disinfection, which is most difficult, only constitutes a palliative, the cost of which is probably not justified by the results obtained.

It would be far better, from a Public Health point of view, to set about the establishment of a good Destructor, than to continue the use of this tip. There are many objectionable things deposited there, besides house refuse, and it seems to be impossible to prevent it.

Factories and Workshops and Bakehouses Acts.

Mr. Yorke's report and the Table (appended) give all the necessary information under this head.

H. D'ARCY ELLIS.

March 22nd, 1906,

TABLE I.
Local Government Board. Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and previous Years.
URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIERLEY-HILL.

YEAR.	Popula- tion estima- ted to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Rate.*		Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
		Num- ber.	Rate.*	Num- ber.	Rate per 1,000 Births Regis- tered.	Num- ber.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1895	11,976	445	37.15	77	173	224	18.78	..	..	9	233	19.45
1896	12,005	397	33.06	60	151	178	14.82	..	..	13	191	16.44
1897	12,034	399	33.15	75	189	218	18.10	..	..	14	232	19.28
1898	12,063	430	35.65	74	172	246	20.39	..	..	13	259	21.47
1899	12,092	442	36.55	69	156	221	18.27	..	..	15	236	19.51
1900	12,122	440	36.29	70	150	253	20.87	..	..	12	265	21.86
1901	12,148	417	34.32	59	141	204	16.79	..	..	12	216	17.78
1902	12,228	412	33.69	57	138	187	15.29	..	..	12	199	16.27
1903	12,388	400	32.28	54	135	174	14.00	..	..	9	183	14.77
1904	12,640	383	30.30	71	186	193	15.26	..	..	24	217	17.16
Average's for years 1895-1904	12,169	416	33.24	66	159	209	17.25	..	..	13	223	18.39
1905	12,822	408	31.82	65	159	182	14.11	..	..	14	196	15.28

* Rates in cols. 4, 8, & 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population. Total Population at all ages ... 12,148 } At Census
Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 1,027. Number of inhabited houses ... 2,394 } of 1901.
Average number of Persons per house, 5.07

TABLE III.

Local Government Board. Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1905.
URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIERLEY-HILL.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE,	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 & up- wards	
Diphtheria ...	6	...	2	4	...	..	...
Membranous Croup .	3	...	3	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	4	...	..	...	...	3	1	
Scarlet Fever ...	17	...	8	8	1	...	...	2
Enteric Fever ...	2	..	...	...	1,	1	..	1
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	
Totals ...	33		13	12	2	5	1	3

Brierley-Hill and Quarry Bank Joint Hospital.
(H) Quarry Bank. (W) Stourbridge Union Workhouse, Kingswinford.

TABLE IV.**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.**

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1905.
URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIERLEY-HILL.

CAUSES OF DEATH. 1	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths, whether of Residents or Non-residents, in Public Institutions in the district. 16
	All ages. 2	Under 1 year. 3	1 and under 5. 4	5 and under 15. 5	15 and under 25. 6	25 and under 65. 7	65 and upwards 8	
Measles	12	5	6	1	Nil.
Scarlet Fever... ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ...	2	..	2	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Diarrhoea	13	10	3	..	..	..	..
Enteritis	5	4	1	..	..	..	..
Other Septic Diseases	2	1	..	1	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	5	..	..	..	1	4	..
Other Tubercular Diseases	6	2	2	1	..	1	..	
Cancer, Malignant Disease	9	..	..	..	..	3	6
Bronchitis	21	6	2	..	..	4	9
Pneumonia	21	7	5	..	..	5	2
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver ...	2	..	..	..	..	2	..
Premature Birth	6	6	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and Accidents of Paturition...	3	..	..	..	1	2	..
Heart Diseases	13	..	1	2	1	6	3	
Accidents	4	1	1	..	1	1	..	
Rheumatism	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
All other Causes	68	23	6	..	2	12	25	
All Causes	196	65	29	9	6	42	45	Nil.

TABLE VI.

Estimated Population, 12,822. Number of Acres, 1,027.
Population, Birth=rate, and Death=rate at all Ages, and the Death=rates from Zymotic Diseases,
Phthisis, and other Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.

Date.	Census, 1901.	Estimated Population to middle of 1905.	Number of persons per acre.	Birth-rate per 1,000 of population.	General Mortality per 1,000 of population.	General Zymotic Mor- tality per 1,000 of population.	Mortality in Children under 1 year of age per 1,000 Births.	Individual Mortality per 1,000 of Population.					
								Enteric Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Phthisis.	Diseases of Res- piratory Organs.		
1905	12,148	12,822	12·4	31·8	15·2	2·1	159	0·0	1·0	0·3	3·2		
Average of past ten years				...	...	...	159	0·7	1·0	0·9	3·6
Mortality in separate Wards (exclusive of 14 deaths which occurred outside the district)								North Ward.		East Ward.		West Ward.	
								9·5		16·6		16·4	

TABLE VII.

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified in the District during the Year 1905.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	At all ages.	Houses Infected.	Number of Cases in each Ward.			Removed to Hospital.	Average number of cases for previous 10 years.
			North.	East.	West.		
Small-Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1
Cholera ...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...
Diphtheria ...	6	5	...	2	4	..	3
Membranous Croup ...	3	3	...	1	2	..	2
Erysipelas ..	4	4	...	2	2	..	6
Scarlet Fever ...	17	14	6	4	7	2	40
Enteric Fever ...	2	2	1	1	...	1	13
Puerperal Fever ...	1	1	...	1	...	..	2
Totals	33	29	7	11	15	3	67

URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIERLEY-HILL.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES, and HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of Inspections	Written Notices.
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries) ..	212	24
WORKSHOPS (including Workshop Laundries) ...		
WORKPLACES		
HOMEWORKERS' PREMISES		
Total	212	24

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects	
	Found.	Remedied.
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—</i>		
Want of Cleanliness	5	5
Want of Ventilation	3	3
Overcrowding	2	2
Sanitary Accommodation—Not separate for sexes ..	1	1
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:—</i>		
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse ..	1	
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake-houses	8	7
Failure as regards lists of outworkers	4	4
Total	24	23

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspect'ors of Factories .	2
Underground Bakehouses	4
In use at the end of the year	4
HOMEWORK:—	
<i>Lists of Outworkers:—</i>	
Lists received	11
Addresses of } forwarded to other Authorities ..	13
Outworkers } received from other Authorities ...	1
Workshops on the Register at the end of the year ..	101
Total number of Workshops on Register ...	101

March 20th, 1906.

H. D'Arcy Ellis, Medical Officer of Health.

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK

*Done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department during the year 1905,
in the Urban District of Brierley-Hill.*

				Inspections and Observa- tions made.	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools.	{	Foul Conditions	...	197	63	58
		Structural Defects	...	121	99	88
		Overcrowding	...	34	6	6
		Unfit for Habitation	...	145	82	79
	{	Lodging-houses	...	98	5	5
		Dairies and Milkshops	...			
		Cowsheds	...	69	8	7
		Bakehouses	...			
		Slaughter-houses	...	248	19	19
		Canal Boats	...	83	34	34
		Ashpits and Privies	...	642	119	83
		Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	14	6	6
		Water Closets	...	26	8	8
		House Drainage	{	Defective Traps	...	315	175	166
No Disconnection	...					
Other faults	...					
{	Water Supply		...	37	17	15
	Pigsties		...	29	7	7
	Animals improperly kept		...	65	24	24
	Offensive Trades		...	26	4	3
	Smoke Nuisances		...			
	Other Nuisances		...	28	16	14
				2187	682	623

						Nos.
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	...	...	...	...	...
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...
" " found Adulterated	..	...	...	...	...
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...
" " condemned as unfit for use	...	...	...	...	...
Precautions against Infectious Disease.						
Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed	..	...	...	...	...	12
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	..	...	...	...	38
Schools ditto ditto	..	...	...	...	...
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease						
Convictions ditto ditto ditto	...	...	...	...	...
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or things	...	...	...	...	...
Convictions ditto ditto	...	...	...	...	...

JOHN YORKE,

Inspector of Nuisances.

March 1st, 1906.

Sanitary Inspector's Department.

During the year I have received and attended to 54 special complaints. As a result of my inspections during the year, I have met with 682 nuisances, defects in bakehouses, dairies and cowsheds, slaughterhouses, water supply, &c. 278 preliminary notices have been served; of these 241 were complied with.

In my monthly reports to your Sanitary and General Purposes Committee, you have ordered 223 statutory notices to be served upon the owners or persons by whose default the several nuisances existed.

The result is shown in the following table :—

Act and Section under which Notice was served.	Number of Notices.	Complied with.	Prosecutions taken.	Not complied with.	Work in hand.
Public Health Act, 1875, Section 94	127	96	2	25	6
Public Health Act, 1875, Section 47	31	28		3	
Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Section 24	2	2			
Housing Working Classes Act, 1890, Section 32	31	28	2	3	
Dairies and Cowsheds Orders	9	9			
Factory and Workshops Act, 1901	8	6			2
Public Health Act, 1875, Section 70	17	15		2	
Total	225	184	4	33	8

During the year you have ordered 9 prosecutions. Only 4 summonses, however, were taken out, as in regard to the other cases the work necessary for the abatement of the nuisance complained of was put in hand before the summons was issued.

Prosecutions are shown below :—

Premises.	Offence or cause of prosecution.	Act under which prosecution instituted	Result.
27 to 31, Terrace Street	Defective drainage, ashpit and privies, spouting, and yard paving.	P.H.A., 1875, Sec. 94	Order granted with costs, July 31.
Court 2 and No. 12, Pearson Street	{ Defective drainage.	P.H.A., 1875, Sec. 94	Order granted with costs, July 3.
27, Turner's Lane	.. House unfit for human habitation.	H.W.C.A., 1890, Sec. 32	Houses ordered to be closed and costs paid.
The Grange ...	Refusal to admit inspector.	P.H.A., 1875, Sec. 102	Warrant granted with costs, March 27.

Two closing orders granted in respect to houses situate in Turner's Lane and Court 1, Bank-street, have been rescinded during the year, the houses having been made habitable to your satisfaction.

Bakehouses.—Sixty-nine visits of inspection have been paid to the different Bakehouses within your district, and, generally speaking, I have found them clean and in good condition. Eight infringements were noted, 7 of which were remedied after notice. The remaining one is still in an insanitary condition, and unless the suggested improvements are carried out it must be condemned and closed. One underground bakehouse has been occupied without your sanction, and one other has been erected without notice, and which your Medical Officer has reported as unfit owing to the surrounding insanitary conditions, and also structural defects. This is also being dealt with under your instructions, and the necessary improvements recommended by your Committee carried out, in default of which it must be closed.

There are now 19 Bakehouses upon the register, 3 of which are underground and registered by you.

Slaughter-houses.—You have granted 12 licenses “for one year only” for occupation of premises as slaughter-houses, and one license for the erection of a new slaughter-house. One slaughter-house has been closed during the year.

I have made 248 visits of inspection and have met with 19 nuisances or breaches of your bye-laws, these were attended to after notice was given. On the whole the slaughter-houses are satisfactory or under the circumstances as satisfactory as private slaughter-houses are likely to be.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.—Ninety-eight visits have been made to the Cowsheds and Milkshops in the district. I am pleased to a report a continued improvement in the condition under which cattle are kept. Five new Cowsheds have been built during the year to replace the insanitary ones which were condemned. Two have been altered to comply with your requirements, and in another case more suitable premises have been taken to replace the one closed by you. Two other Sheds have been closed during the year.

This process of weeding out has taken time and patience, and in some cases the desired result could not be obtained until legal proceedings were commenced or threatened. The chief defect in most the Cowsheds is want of good drainage, this, no doubt, will be remedied when the projected new sewerage scheme is completed.

The cleanliness of the Cowsheds and the personal habits of those who have charge of cattle leave something yet to be desired. It is surprising to see the alarming ignorance displayed by people who have been keeping cows for many years. Upon several occasions I have been compelled to request persons whom I have found milking cows with indiscribly hands to wash them, and also the teats of the cow. This does not apply to all, and I am bound to say that some of the Cowkeepers deserve special praise for the cleanliness and care with which they conduct their business. Their cows are well groomed and the sheds and utensils are kept clean as hand can make them; thus going to prove that with a little care and energy all serious objections may be removed. Old-fashioned notions and prejudices die hard, and it will be some time before the happy ideal is attained in the meantime the educational work must go on. You have 17 registered cowsheds in your district, and 5 licensed milk purveyors.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.—There are 45 Factories on the register, and 101 Workshops and Workplaces are under inspection, and where the following trades are carried on:—

Bakers	...	...	...	19
Carpenter and Builder	...	...	...	6
Dressmakers	...	...	...	17
Milliners	...	...	...	9
Blacksmiths	...	..	...	4
Plumbers	...	...	...	5
Tailors	...	...	...	13
Boat Building	...	...	...	5
Boot and Shoe Making	...	...	...	5
Basket Making	...	...	...	1
Pottery	...	...	...	1
Cabinet Making and Upholstering	...	...	...	4

Brought forward...	...	89
Ale Bottling...	...	1
Saddlers ...	...	2
Stonemason ..	...	1
Jewellers ...	...	2
Painters ...	...	4
Wheelwright ...	...	2

101

These places are regularly inspected, and on the whole are in a satisfactory condition.

During the year I received 11 lists of outworkers containing 128 names of persons who were outworkers in this district and in the surrounding districts. Thirteen lists of outworkers have been forwarded to the various Councils in whose district they reside, and one list has been received from neighbouring authorities. Twenty-four infringements of the Act has been noted, 23 of which has been remedied.

Canal Boats Acts.—Eighty-three inspections have been made during the year, and 34 infringements of the Acts have been recorded. Sixty-eight Boats are now upon the register and 4 Boats have been registered during the year.

Nature of Infringement.	No. of Complaints.
Leaking Cabins ...	1
Cabins requiring Painting ...	6
No Certificate on Board ...	2
Not properly Registered ...	3
Dirty and Dilapidated ...	6
Overcrowding ...	2
No Water Vessel ...	1
No Pump on Board ...	8
Marks and Lettering Indistinct ...	5
	34

Infectious Disease.—I have visited and enquired into 38 cases of infectious disease and the sanitary defects found were subsequently dealt with and remedied. Thirty-five houses have been thoroughly sprayed with formalin, and 12 lots of bedding &c. have been taken to hospital for disinfection. Thirty-eight notices have been sent to the Librarian.

Petroleum Acts.—Five licenses have been issued during the year. I have made 23 visits, and 2 samples of petroleum have been taken, and when tested were found to comply with the requirements of the Act.

Removal of House Refuse.—I am pleased to report a great improvement in this work, few complaints have been made during the year. The work has been carried out in a satisfactory manner, and my requests have immediately received attention. The work, I should say, is being carried out as well as is possible under prevailing conditions.

2,555 Ashpits and Privies have been cleansed during the year. This gives a weekly average of Ashpits and Privies.

I do not think Cottage Street tip a desirable place to deposit the town's refuse, owing to its proximity to the centre of the town.

I think you will be running a grave risk if you allow the place to be used for this purpose much longer. I suggest an effort should be made to secure a more suitable place further removed from the town where the whole of the town's refuse could be deposited with safety.

Further details of work done in my department will be found in table attached.

JOHN YORKE.

March 22nd, 1906.

